



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue #5

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

3 June 2011

Cotton/Soybean Insect Scouting Schools

The first school was held at the Edisto Research and Education Center (EREC) yesterday. If you missed this one and want another shot, the second school will be held at the Tri-County Co-op near St. Matthews, SC, on 7 June 2011. We are offering CCA and pesticide credits for attending the entire training. The training and lunch are free, and there will be handouts and some giveaways available. **In order to plan for lunch, please email Charles Davis (cdvs@clermson.edu) by today with how many you will be bringing to the training in St. Matthews.**

Cotton/Soybean Insect Scouting School (7 June 2011)

Tri-County Electric Co-op near St. Matthews, SC, 6473 Old State Road, St. Matthews, SC 29135

9:30 AM – 1:00 PM (Registration – Adjourn) LUNCH PROVIDED

Pest Patrol Hotline

There is a toll-free hotline for updates on insect problems. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Call the free number **(877) 285-8525** and select the messages you would like to hear. Select #3 for the Southeast and select #1 to hear my message. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

News from Above the Lakes

Randy Cabbage, county agent covering Lee, Kershaw, and Sumter Counties, reported that he found kudzu bugs in Sumter County. Trish DeHond, county agent covering Darlington, Dillon, and Marlboro Counties found kudzu bugs in Darlington County.

News from Below the Lakes

Kudzu bugs were reported in Charleston County. See the section on *Kudzu Bug/Bean Plataspid* for more information and current maps of known distribution in SC and the Southeast.

News from the Piedmont/Upstate

Jay Crouch, county agent in Newberry reported this week that he found kudzu bugs/bean plataspid in soybeans in southern Laurens County. Cory Heaton, county agent covering Chester, York, and Lancaster Counties confirmed kudzu bugs in York and Chester Counties.

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Public Service Activities

The mention of any commercial product in this publication does not imply its endorsement by Clemson University over other products not named, nor does the omission imply that they are not satisfactory.



Cotton Situation

As of 31 May 2011, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 86% of the crop being planted, behind where we were last year at 91% but close to the 5-yr average of 87%. Temperatures have been high, and, although some areas received inches of rain, much of the state is still dry and in need of rainfall. The overall soil moisture levels in the state were described as 14% very short, 42% short, 43% adequate, and 1% surplus. Conditions for cotton were reported as 3% very poor, 5% poor, 41% fair, 48% good and 3% excellent. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

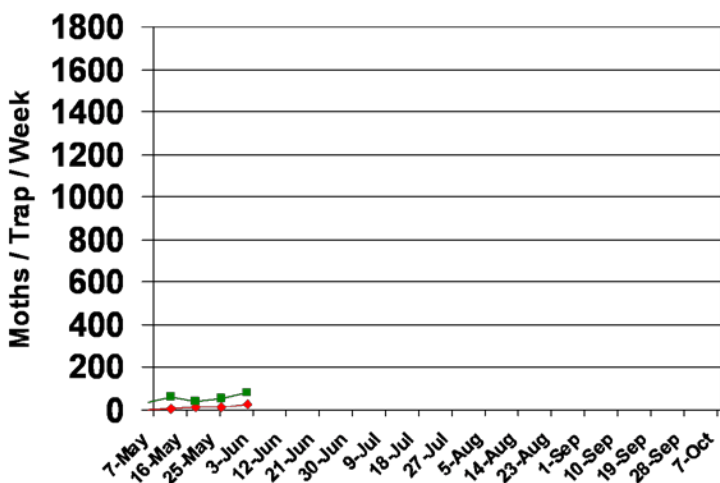
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



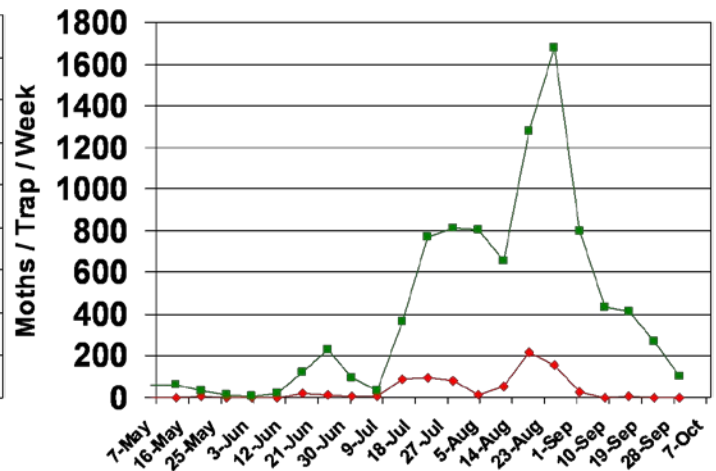
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC last season and this season are shown below. We are a little higher than where we were last year with numbers captured in traps. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for a limited number of non-Bt-cotton acres. I provide these data as a measure of moth activity in our local area where I use these data as an indication of moth presence and activity near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2011



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2010



Cotton Insect Control Guide

Clemson University Publication IC97 (Cotton Insect Management) has been revised for 2011 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/ENTOM/IC97.PDF>

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Soybean Situation

As of 31 May 2011, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 57% of soybeans as planted, equal to where we were last year and ahead of the 5-yr average of 49%. About 43% of soybeans have emerged, compared with 42% last year and 31% for the 5-yr average. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Kudzu Bug/Bean Plataspid

The kudzu bug (a.k.a. bean plataspid), *Megacopta cribraria*, continues to spread in SC and the Southeast. We have it confirmed in 34 of 46 counties in SC. ***It has been found on kudzu and/or soybeans in these counties, but it will feed on legumes in general, so it could be on other hosts, and it might be present but yet to be detected in other counties.*** Any sampling assistance in unconfirmed areas will be a big help. The best place to look for these pests is in/around kudzu. If you want to help document new county finds of this pest, digital pictures or specimens preserved in alcohol are important documentation to get from infested areas. ***Please email/send that information to me only if the infestation is in SC and is a new county observation.***



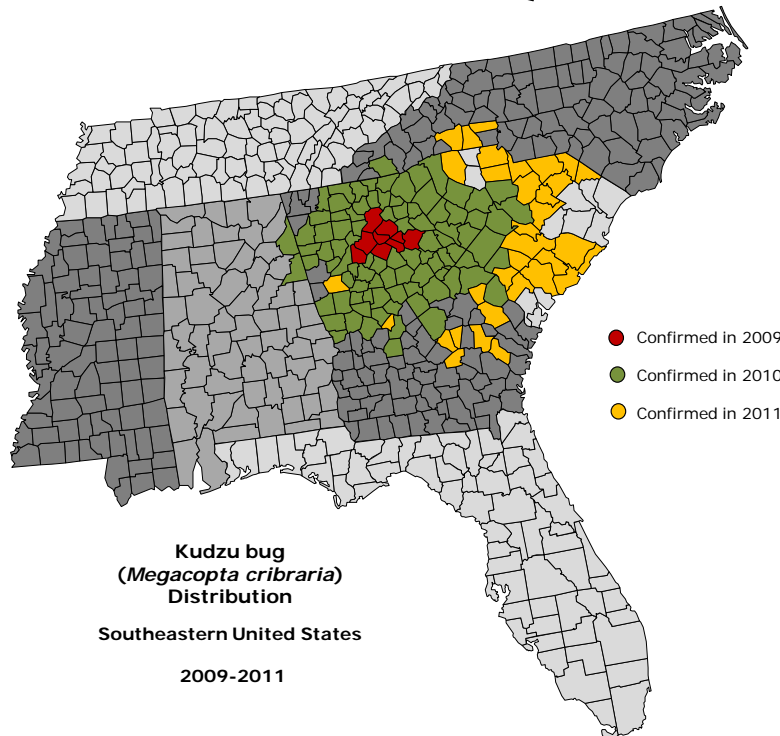
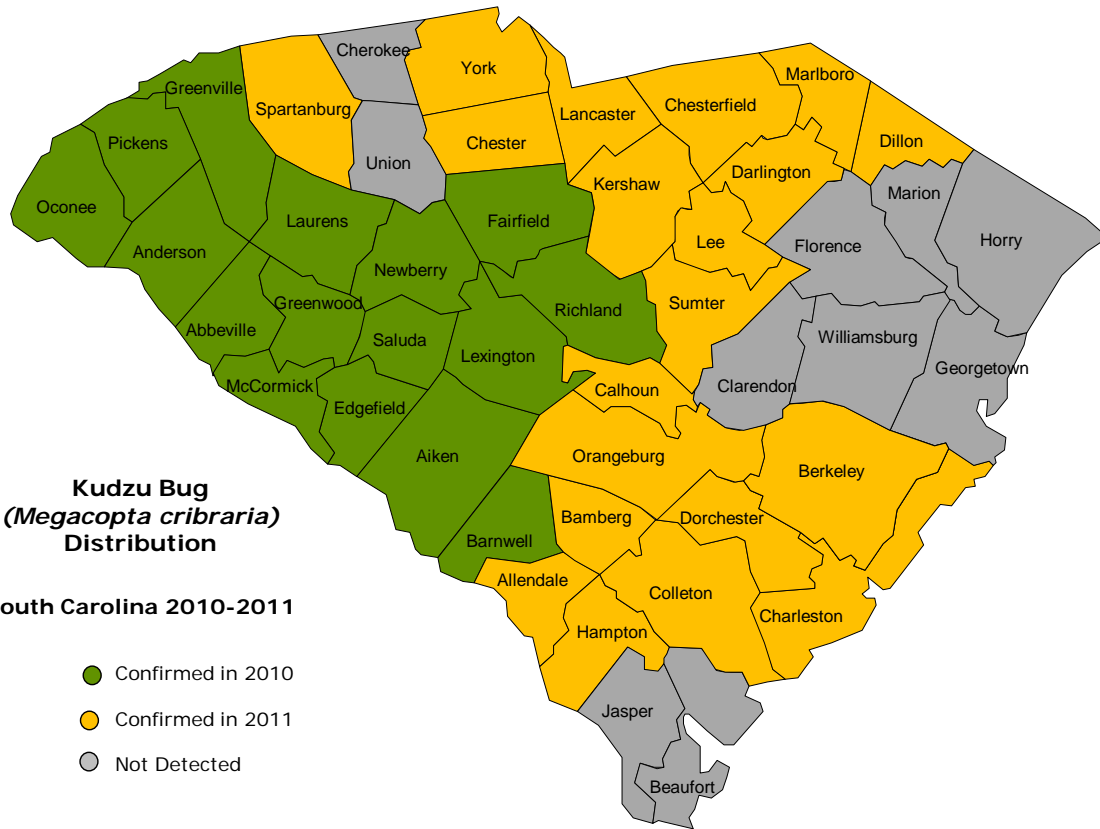
Dr. Phillip Roberts provided this picture (right), taken by Dr. Jared Whitaker, of kudzu bugs covering soybeans in Midville, GA, on the last day of May (Tuesday). So, the bugs are moving to soybeans that are up and established. This appears to be occurring a few weeks before it did last year, so things are moving quickly this season. Look for these bugs along field edges initially. We should continue to monitor these infestations for signs of injury. This species caused yield losses ranging from 11-23% in untreated plots compared with protected plots last year in GA. They also found that fewer pods per plant and fewer seeds per pod occurred when caged soybeans were infested with high numbers of bugs. UGA is currently suggesting **a threshold of 3-5 kudzu bugs per soybean plant** as a threshold. We are progressing with our research on this new, invasive species and hope to have some answers and additional data concerning damage potential to soybeans soon.



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Soybean Insect Control Guide

Clemson University Publication SL1 (Soybean Insect Management) has been revised for 2011 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/SL1.PDF>

Pest Management Handbook - 2011

Insect control recommendations are also available online in the 2011 Pest Management Handbook at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/index.html>

Need More Information?

Log on to the following web pages to view important cotton management recommendations, data, and historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

For more cotton and soybean information:

<http://www.clemson.edu/public/rec/edisto/research/index.html>

For past newsletters:

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest_management/newsletters/index.html

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.

Associate Professor – Entomologist



Visit our website at:

<http://www.clemson.edu>

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